

Equity in Federal Infrastructure Spending

By Urban Institute

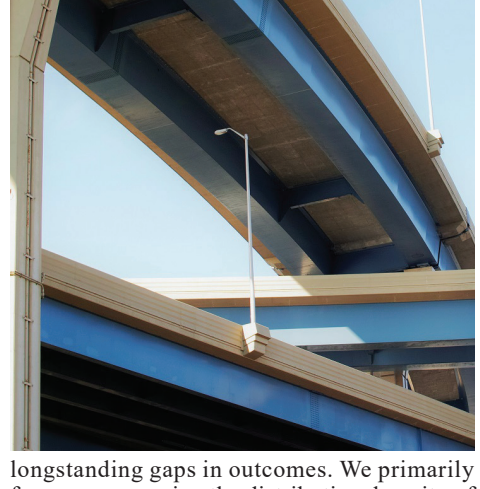
Editor's note: Urban Institute's research team, including Yonah Freemark, Mel Langness, Amanda Hermans, Gabe Samuels, Tomi Rajninger, and David C. Blount, contributed to this report.

Federal investment in infrastructure substantially increased over the past two years with the passage of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Executive departments will distribute hundreds of billions of dollars to states and localities to invest in enhanced transportation, water supply systems, broadband networks, housing, and more. These projects can improve the quality of life for thousands and reinvigorate decaying built structures across the country. Federal funding programs, however, may not be distributing resources fairly. In the past, public infrastructure projects have deepened racial and social inequities—such as by bulldozing communities of color to build highways or depriving families with low incomes of the quality housing they deserve. It is essential to examine how infrastructure funds

are being apportioned to understand whether investments are expanding support for disinvested communities or, in contrast, reinforcing historic inequities.

To explore the distribution of infrastructure funds, our research team developed a first-of-its-kind, comprehensive database of projects funded in fiscal year 2022 through sixty-six federal grant programs contained within IIJA or from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. These multibillion dollar programs fund transportation, water, energy, broadband, housing, and community development infrastructure, and are allocated to states and localities either automatically by formulas set by Congress and federal agencies or through merit-based competitions judged by federal executive departments. We identify funding distributed directly to entities in nearly three thousand counties; all fifty states; Washington, DC; and several United States territories.

Pursuing a more equitable society requires targeting federal investments to places and people experiencing historical injustice and compounded disadvantage, so that funds can start to close



longstanding gaps in outcomes. We primarily focus on measuring the distributional equity of infrastructure funding by assessing how federal assistance to states and counties responds to patterns of racial, ethnic, and class demographics;

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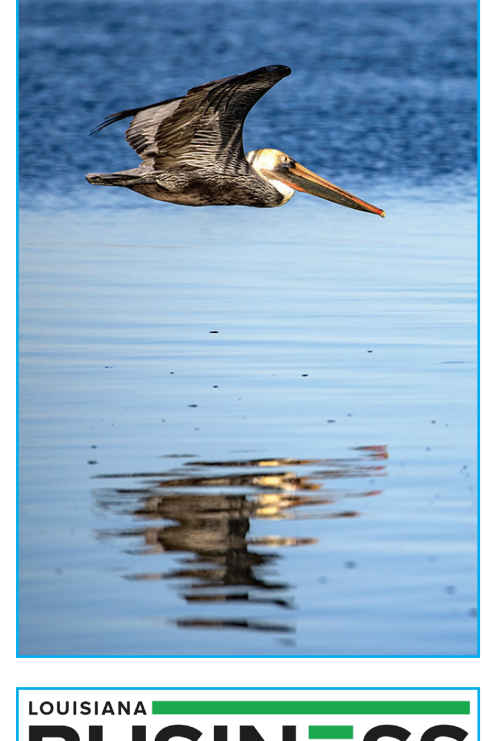
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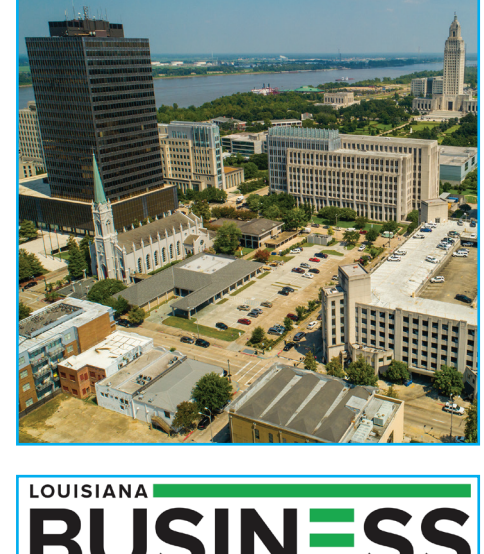
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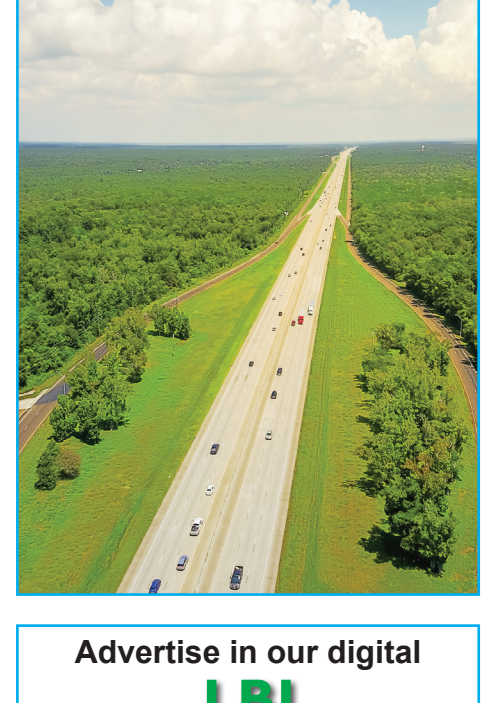
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For more info contact
Valerie Voorhies at
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2023

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Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 9:30 am–10:30 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Webinar
Thursday, November 16, 2023, 9:00 am–10:00 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>
Fee: Free; registration required
Welcome to the WOSB webinar series! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions will include an overview of the self-certification process, as well as a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register for this free webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, January 25, 2024, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: [George Tapia](mailto:George.Tapia@SBA.gov), 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
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June 15, 2010
DATE